



Testimony to the Public Health Committee

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut

March 7, 2022

Regarding

House Bill 5277, An Act Concerning the Establishment of Technical Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment that Promotes Accessibility in Health Care Facilities

LeadingAge Connecticut is a statewide membership association representing not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of aging services, including not-for-profit skilled nursing facilities, residential care homes, home health care agencies, hospice agencies, adult day centers, assisted living communities, senior housing and life plan communities. We are pleased today to submit testimony on *House Bill 5277, An Act Concerning the Establishment of Technical Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment that Promotes Accessibility in Health Care Facilities*.

LeadingAge Connecticut recognizes the importance of examining the issue of accessibility of medical diagnostic equipment. We are also pleased to be participating in the meetings of the newly organized *Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment Task Force* which is seeking to raise awareness of the lived experiences of persons with disabilities within the health care system and developing collaborative strategies for education and outreach.

While we appreciate the thoughtful approach this proposed legislation attempts to put forth, we do not support moving forward with it at this time. One reason that we cannot support the proposal is that the technical standards for accessibility which this bill is centered on, those developed by the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, are voluntary standards that have not yet been adopted by the federal government. It should not be assumed that these are the standards on which to establish state mandates.

In that the *Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment Task Force* has not yet put forth any legislative recommendations and since we cannot be assured of the appropriate standards to base any proposals on, we urge the Committee to wait for the recommendations of the task force before any legislative action is taken.

We thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on this bill and for your consideration of our opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

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